



Volume I; No 1

Idaho APSE Newsletter

Spring, 2009

Spring Into APSE!

Welcome to the first newsletter of **Idaho APSE!** We hope you find it interesting and inviting. Inviting is our current focus, as we kick off our first membership drive for the Idaho APSE Chapter.

Idaho APSE began in 2006 as a project of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council sought to bring together people who solely support integrated work opportunities for people disabilities in Idaho, and support them in having an organized voice. This sets APSE apart from other organizations that support and encourage both integrated and segregated models of employment. For APSE, inclusion is a fundamental part of work.

The Idaho APSE Organizing Committee was initially 9 people from across the state. We spent our first year working on the requirements to form an official chapter. In December 2007, Idaho APSE was recognized by National APSE and awarded "Chapter in Development" status. Idaho APSE was born!

The Idaho APSE Committee members:

- believe integrated employment in the community is the best possible employment option for people with disabilities.
- support individuals to work at real jobs, earning competitive wages and benefits and possibly owning their own businesses.
- advocate and support efforts to enhance opportunities for integrated employment for people with disabilities

Idaho APSE has become a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and we are taking the next steps to become a fully recognized chapter. In order to meet that goal, we need a total of 20 individual members. That's why "Spring Into APSE" is important for our organization. We hope you consider becoming a member of Idaho APSE and joining our effort to expand and grow opportunities for integrated employment in Idaho.

Kelly Keele, President
Idaho APSE Board of Directors

"Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. Seeming to do is not doing."

Thomas A. Edison

Is APSE an Acronym?

Originally APSE was an acronym that stood for **A**ssociation for **P**ersons in **S**upported **E**mployment. Initially, supported employment was the primary focus of the organization. Over time other employment doors for people with disabilities opened like self-employment and customized employment. The organization changed its name to show that it embraces all forms of integrated employment. APSE became **APSE - the network on employment**.

APSE is an international organization. Members come from all over the United States and U.S. Territories and from several foreign countries including Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Taiwan, and New Zealand.

APSE membership is primarily made up of employment professionals, including administrators, managers, and employment specialists. Our membership also includes people with disabilities, family members, employers, rehabilitation counselors, advocates, state and federal agency officials, etc. APSE membership is open to anyone who is committed to ensuring that Integrated employment continues to grow and improve, and who wants to be part of a grass roots network for integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

APSE Idaho Vision

All Idahoans with disabilities have the right to meaningful and competitive employment in their communities.

APSE Mission:

Idaho APSE adopted the mission statement of the national organization to improve and expand integrated employment opportunities, services, and outcomes for Idahoans with disabilities by:

- ✓ Providing advocacy and education to individuals participating in supported employment services, e.g. supported employment professionals, consumers, and their family members, and employers.
- ✓ Addressing issues and barriers which impede the growth and implementation of integrated employment services.
- ✓ Improving supported employment practice so that individuals and communities experience supported employment as a quality service with meaningful outcomes.
- ✓ Promoting national, state, and local policy development which enhances the social and economic inclusion and empowerment of all persons with disabilities.

Council Seeks Input on Workplan

Beginning May 25, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities will have its 2010 Draft Work Plan open for public comment. The work plan outlines the Council's projects and activities the Council will work on from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. The draft plan can be found on the Council's website at www.icdd.idaho.gov. Written or taped comments must be received by July 10th.

Proposed Vocational Rehabilitation Rules Defeated

Proposed rule changes for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation were not approved by the 2009 Idaho Legislature. These rules would have required for-profit employment agencies to comply with the same requirements for non-profits. These were: 1) form and use an advisory board; 2) undergo an annual financial audit; and 3) publically disclose the salary of the chief executive officer. In addition, the proposed rules removed a section dealing with client appeal rights and instead included a reference to the Vocational Rehabilitation Field Services Manual.

APSE President Kelly Keele and member Katherine Hansen spoke against these rules as did the DD Council. There was concern that these requirements would not only pose a financial hardship on small businesses but that it might limit consumer choice if the providers went out of business. The Council encouraged VR to focus on employment outcomes instead of organizational structure.

Senator Gary Schroeder of Moscow commented that he owned a small business and if he had to adhere to the proposed rules, he would not be able to make a profit. Several legislators expressed concern that Vocational Rehabilitation had not undertaken a negotiated rule-making process with the proposed changes. With both House and Senate Education committees in agreement, a concurrent resolution was passed, striking all the proposed changes and maintaining the rules as they currently stand.

Vocational Rehabilitation Seeking Input to State Plan

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) is seeking comment to its 2010 Draft State Plan. Town meetings will be held in Idaho Falls on Wednesday, May 27 at the Commerce and Labor Offices at 1515 E. Lincoln Rd. and in Boise on Thursday, May 28, at the Center for Assistive Technology, 5420 Franklin Rd., Ste A. Both meetings are scheduled for 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Draft plans are available for review at all IDVR locations or on the website at www.vr.idaho.gov. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 pm on May 29th.

Meet the Idaho APSE Board of Directors

President Kelly Keele
Owner, Transitions,
Inc. , Idaho Falls



Carolyn Rudeck
Reg. Director, SW Idaho
Emp.Coordinator
Community Partnerships

Valerie Cutshall
Owner, C & R, Inc.
Moscow



Sec'y/Treasurer, Ex Officio
Program Specialist, DD
Council